

The international space station has been built over the last 10 years. It has been built with the genius, the intellect, and the research of the United States. That research and genius and that kind of data requires protection as a national security interest. The funding that needs to be restored will help create this opportunity and save jobs.

Let us save jobs and provide for NASA space exploration.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BRIGHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BRIGHT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HONORABLE CHARLIE WILSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ORTIZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, today we are here to honor the life and work of my good friend Representative Charlie Wilson, whom I had the pleasure of serving with in the House of Representatives for 13 years. Charlie was a unique person, one of a kind, and he will be missed dearly by his family, friends, and colleagues in the House.

Charlie had a very special and unique side to him. He knew when to be tough, he knew when to laugh, he knew when to speak his thoughts, but, above all, he knew how to serve the people of this great country and his district.

At the age of 23, after graduating with a bachelor of science degree from the U.S. Naval Academy, Charlie joined the United States Navy, where he attained the rank of lieutenant. After serving as a surface fleet officer for 4 years, he was assigned to the Pentagon as part of an intelligence unit that studied the Soviet Union's nuclear forces.

At the age of 27, Charlie was elected to the Texas Legislature, and in 1961 he was sworn into office in the State's capital in Austin, Texas. For more than 12 years, Charlie was known as the tough dog in the State capitol, and he was also often called the "liberal from Lufkin, Texas." During his time in the State legislature, he fought for Medicaid, tax exemptions for the elderly, the Equal Rights Amendment, and a minimum wage bill.

In 1972, while I was an elected county commissioner in Texas, Charlie was elected to the House of Representatives from the Second District of Texas near Houston. He served in Congress for 11

terms and did not seek reelection to the 105th Congress and resigned on October 8, 1996.

Charlie was known in the Halls of Congress as "Good Time Charlie," but it was an appropriate name for him. He was very funny, joyful, and full of life—and very humorous. After he retired from Congress, he settled down, he got married, and he was at peace with himself and looked more comfortable and at ease. Charlie truly enjoyed life.

In 2006, we asked him to come and visit with us in Corpus Christi, and this was when his book came out, "Charlie Wilson's War." He gave time to the people in the district and signed and autographed every book.

I remember one of the stories—and some of the stuff that I know about Charlie we probably wouldn't be able to say here in the House, but he enjoyed life. He brought a beautiful young lady from Russia to visit the United States, and they asked Charlie, "Are you going to give her secrets?" He said, "The only thing I am going to give her are Victoria's Secrets."

That was Charlie Wilson. He was a great guy.

There is much I can say about Charlie—he was one-of-a-kind. I served with him diligently in the House of Representatives. I will miss him dearly, as well as my colleagues from the Texas Delegation. We all loved and cared for Charlie dearly, and I know we will continue to work together in unison for the betterment of our state and country.

On February 10, 2010, this country lost a great person and my friend, Charlie Wilson. May he rest in peace.

I offer my condolences to Charlie's wife, Barbara Alberstadt. May God bring peace to her, his family, friends and loved ones. May Charlie be with the Lord.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, today during the debate about Afghanistan, I joined Mr. KUCINICH and several others in our concerns about Afghanistan, and I wanted to further read to the House. I had used a Marine Times article that has a photograph of a marine who is retired now and his son, Joshua, who was killed in Afghanistan. The article says "Caution Killed My Son. Marine Families Blast Suicidal Tactics in Afghanistan."

In addition to this article about his son and the tighter rules of engagement, "families voice outrage over new restrictions in Afghanistan," they also

have an article about four marines who were killed that asked the Army to give them cover. The Army didn't say "no"; they just didn't even respond.

The rules of engagement are so different for our troops that I think at some point in time we in the Congress, particularly on the Armed Services Committee, I am going to ask for a hearing about the rules of engagement.

I want to explain and then read a couple of comments from the father which was in this article, Sergeant Bernard, retired Marine, whose son Joshua was killed. What had happened was the marines had been in a firefight. Then there was an Afghan that came to the marines and said, Listen, there are other Taliban enemy down the road, and if you follow me, I will show you where they are located.

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This is where I want to pick up the story by the father's writing. He said, When the ambush began, the tipster could not be found, and the interpreter took cover, raising questions in Bernard's mind about whether they led the Marines into a trap. There's no question they did. I further quote Sergeant Bernard, who's retired now: "Call me cynical if you want, but some rogue element led them there. The bottom line is both of those guys were gone. It's just another indication of how this counterinsurgency strategy can't work."

I further want to read: "In an October 13 letter to Collins, Mullen addressed Bernard's concerns by saying that 'the new tactical directive did not change the ROE in Afghanistan, but rather provided more clarification and guidelines regarding the use of force. We have refined our procedures in order to reduce civilian casualties, but at no time have the ROE been modified to place our troops at greater risk,' Mullen wrote. 'Our troops still operate under a set of ROE that allows them to protect themselves against enemy actions in balance with the Afghan populace.'"

Sergeant Bernard, a retired Marine who served this Nation, said "the letter is 'smoke and mirrors' and overlooks his consistent concern: A counterinsurgency strategy won't work as long as Afghanistan is filled with warring tribes that have no empathy for the U.S. and its way of life."

I further want to read down in his response in the Marine Corps Times: "I already talked to Collins' office and said, 'Don't let him spin this crap.' There's no indication that Afghanistan has changed anywhere. Our mission should be very, very simple: Chase and kill the enemy."

Madam Speaker, that's exactly what they should be doing, instead of this other type of strategy.

Bernard said he is frustrated that the senator's office, one of his home State senators and a member of the Senate Armed Service Committee, has handled his complaints as that of a single constituent—and I'm not getting into